

The Honorable Deborah A. Dingell
House of Representatives
U.S. Congress

Dear Ms. Dingell,

I am saddened that I must bring to your attention a few deeply insulting and chauvinistic remarks that were made by an individual at an event which I attended in the Rayburn Building on Tuesday, October 29th and which your office and staff helped facilitate.

Namely, one of the panel participants, Ms. Ajla Delkic referred to the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina as being a "destabilizing factor" and then proceeded to compare an entire people to the Nazis. As a Serbian-American, a co-founder of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Council (DNC) and as the Director of the Republic of Srpska Office in Washington, D.C., I am compelled to raise this matter to with you so that you are aware of how hurtful and offensive these remarks are to the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Americans of Serbian heritage.

Ms. Delkic's remarks (see below) were live-streamed during the event and a recording is available on the Internet.

I do realize that your staff and you are not responsible for her or anybody else's remarks made during the event, however you should be aware of the serious breach of civil discourse that occurred and the intolerance directed at an entire people by a speaker at an event held in property of the U.S. House of Representatives and that was scheduled through assistance of your staff.

I have shared my concern over this incident with representatives of Serbian-American church and civic leaders and organizations, including those in your home state of Michigan. I hope that you understand the pain and insult that these hateful remarks have on a people; often whose family members were victims of Nazi death camps and mass murder during the Second World War.

I would welcome any response from you and an opportunity to answer any questions that you may have concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Obrad Kesic
Director

Remarks of Ms. Ajla Delkic as heard and confirmed by video:

"Let us not forget that Serbs may have a little over of a quarter of the population in Bosnia and they have proven to be a very destabilizing factor. Remember that only 30percent of Germans voted for Hitler and should they have been given a Republic Nazi?"